# **Restoration (FINAL)**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Version #	APP # 700467	
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#### A. List of Restoration Activities

The 39.5 square mile Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTNA) and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) was designated in 1980. Located in southeastern Kern County, the DTNA is managed cooperatively under a Sykes Act Management Plan by the Bureau of land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC). Over the years, the DTNA has become a peninsular of pristine habitat surrounded by degraded lands that are the focus of tortoise-incompatible, human-activities. In 2002, the DTPC launched a major initiative to expand the DTNA to include prime tortoise habitat to the west, southeast and east. To date the DTPC has acquired about 66% of the lands in the eastern expansion area. This habitat is home to desert tortoises and other imperiled wildlife such as the Mohave ground squirrel.

About one mile east of the current DTNA boundary in the heart of the DTPC's eastern expansion area are a number of parcels of land known collectively as Camp C. Camp C has been severely degraded over the past 30 years by extensive off road vehicle use, dispersed camping activities and livestock grazing. It was once owned by the City of California City for use as a public park and provided a staging area for motorcycle riders racing in the Rand Mountains to the north. Camp C was also used as a temporary camp for sheep herders, who graze their flocks on the area's private lands and public lands south of the Rand Mountains Fremont Valley Management Area southern fence. The city no longer owns any of the land in the area and the area is no longer within the city limits due to a recent corporate boundary adjustment. The Center for Biological Diversity acquired Camp C and then donated the land to the DTPC in 2005 for the purposes of wildlife habitat rehabilitation, restoration, and long-term conservation of two threatened species, the desert tortoise (Federal and State listed) and the Mohave ground squirrel (State listed). The Committee owns 31.72 acres of land at Camp C.

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee has been working to expand the existing DTNA in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Fish and Game. DTPC plans to retain this property in perpetuity for the conservation of the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel and their habitat. It plans to do so in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Fish and Game under existing assistance agreements and cooperative projects such as the Desert Tortoise Natural Area and Ecological Reserves. Camp C lies in proximity to these two government management areas devoted entirely to conservation of these species and their habitat. Over time, the Committee plans to acquire, in partnership with the Federal and State government, all the privately owned lands within a triangular shaped area south of the Rand Mountains and east of the DTNA for biological conservation purposes.

The goal of this project is to restore the habitat values at Camp C to levels that are suitable for desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel occupation. Methods undertaken to improve the habitat quality at Camp C include the installation of vertical mulch, the installation of horizontal mulch, and the construction of catchments. Materials, such as sticks, whole bushes, and rocks, will be collected on site and harvested from DTPC-owned lands within California City that have no conservation uses. The mulch will not grow but will create mental barriers to people. It will also create a microclimate and microtopographical features that will encourage natural collection and growth of seeds. The planting of vertical mulch will be done with a minimum of soil disturbance using augers and other hand-tools.

#### B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

About one mile east of the current DTNA boundary in the heart of the DTPC's eastern expansion area are a number of parcels of land known collectively as Camp C. Camp C has been severely degraded over the past 30 years by extensive off road vehicle use and dispersed camping activities. It was once owned by the City of California City for use as a public park and provided a staging area for motorcycle riders racing in the Rand Mountains to the north.

Over the years, the habitat in and around Camp C experienced a significant degree of degradation. Today, about 35% of the land is almost completely devoid of vegetation and is highly compacted. The primary vegetation remaining on site at the

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time of fencing in 2007 were creosote bushes. Most other species of herbaceous shrubs no longer occur in the area because of sustained damage by off-roading activity.

### C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

Camp C is a total of 31.6 acres. Of the total area there are 17.5 acres of land that are currently in need of restoration. Habitat improvement shave been conducted on 12.5 acres within the fenced area. Work previously implemented occurred in December 2007 and December 2009.

#### D. Monitoring and Methodology

After vertical mulch, horizontal mulch, and catchments have been constructed throughout the 17.5 acre project area 20 installations of each treatment will be randomly selected, staked with identification numbers, logged on a GPS device, and photographed. These sixty installations will be monitored at least once annually by a biologist or trained volunteers. Data collected immediately after initial installation and during annual monitoring will include: percent plant cover, number of active rodent burrows within the area of the installation, identification of plant species within the area of the installation, and the number of native plants species compared to that of non-native plant species. Additionally, photo monitoring at each installation will occur during each monitoring session. An increase in the number of native plant species, percent cover of native plant species, and an increase in rodent burrows will be used to determine the successful outcome of the Restoration Project. Photo monitoring will also be used to judge to success of the Restoration Project.

### E. List of Reports

Reports will be provided to the following agencies: the Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest Field Office; the California Department of Fish and Game; and the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

A professional presentation will be given at the annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposia in February of 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

#### F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

### G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

Plans to protect the project area include fencing (completed in 2007). The area was minimally signed in 2007. New signs will be installed by the end July 2010 stating that the location is closed to trespass and is a "restoration area". The project will be monitored monthly by a biologist and the integrity of the project area will be monitored at least twice per month by volunteers. Additionally the project area is patrolled by BLM personal on a regular basis.

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**Additional Documentation** 

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

Camp C Aerial

Camp C Assessor's Parcel

DTNA & Camp C Area Map

Mutiple GPS Points Within Camp C

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

Camp C Restoration Area Photos

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# Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010 Agency: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. Application: Restoration (FINAL)

# **Project Cost Estimate**

	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Version #		APP #	
APPLICANT NAME :	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee,	Inc.			
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration (FINAL)			PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-04-10-R01
PROJECT TYPE :	☐ Acquisition ☐ Law Enforcement	☐ Development ☐ Planning	Education Restoration		Ground Operations
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	The 39.5 square mile Desert Tortoise Located in southeastern Kern County, (BLM), California Department of Fish a peninsular of pristine habitat surround major initiative to expand the DTNA to lands in the eastern expansion area.  About one mile east of the current DTI Camp C. Camp C has been severely grazing. It was once owned by the Cit Mountains to the north. Camp C was a south of the Rand Mountains Fremont longer within the city limits due to a red to the DTPC in 2005 for the purposes (Federal and State listed) and the Mor The Desert Tortoise Preserve Commit California Department of Fish and Gar squirrel and their habitat. It plans to dexisting assistance agreements and contents the DTNA for biological conservation. The goal of this project is to restore the Methods undertaken to improve the haconstruction of catchments. Materials California City that have no conservation.	Research Natural Area (DTNA) and Area the DTNA is managed cooperatively used and Game (CDFG) and the Desert Torticed by degraded lands that are the focus include prime tortoise habitat to the well-include prime tortoise habitat to the well-include prime tortoises habitat to the well-include prime tortoises habitat is home to desert tortoises. NA boundary in the heart of the DTPC's degraded over the past 30 years by extry of California City for use as a public palso used as a temporary camp for sheet Valley Management Area southern fendent corporate boundary adjustment. The of wildlife habitat rehabilitation, restoral have ground squirrel (State listed). The stee has been working to expand the extension of the properative projects such as the Desert properative projects and the privately owned in purposes.  The mulch will not grow but we encourage natural collection and growth the propertical properties and provides the properties of the properties of the provided properties and the privately owned in purposes.	ea of Critical Ender a Sykes Acoise Preserve Cost of tortoise-incost, southeast all and other imperent eastern expanensive off road ark and provides pherders, who coe. The city note Center for Bition, and long-tromattee own sting DTNA in committee own st	ovironmental Concern (AC of Management Plan by the Committee (DTPC). Over ompatible, human-activities and east. To date the DTF riled wildlife such as the Novehicle use, dispersed cased a staging area for mote of graze their flocks on the Proposition of the Information of the Information of the Information of the Information of the Conservation of the Information o	the Bureau of land Management the years, the DTNA has become a es. In 2002, the DTPC launched a PC has acquired about 66% of the Mohave ground squirrel.  If parcels of land known collectively as amping activities and livestock prcycle riders racing in the Rand area's private lands and public lands and in the area and the area is no d Camp C and then donated the land hreatened species, the desert tortoise Camp C.  Peral Bureau of Land Management and desert tortoise and Mohave ground Department of Fish and Game under serves. Camp C lies in proximity to me, the Committee plans to acquire, uth of the Rand Mountains and east ave ground squirrel occupation. of horizontal mulch, and the d from DTPC-owned lands within also create a microclimate and

# Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010 Agency: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. Application: Restoration (FINAL)

Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES			•			
Program Expenses						
1 Staff						
Other-Biologist  Notes: This will fund two years of monitoring including staff and travel	24.000	300.000	MOS	7,200.00	0.00	7,200.00
Other-Volunteer monitors  Notes: This cost includes regularly monitoring and watering of the project and poject area that is conducted by volunteers.	24.000	175.000	MOS	0.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
Other-Administration  Notes: This line item will fund documentation, reporting, coordiation, and other items associted with th administration of this project for the next two years.	160.000	25.000	HRS	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
Other-Volunteer workers  Notes: Hundreds of volunteer hours are spent working on the restoration site each year. This firgure represent the anticipated match of volunteer effortsover the next two years.	20.000	400.000	HRS	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Total for Staff				11,200.00	12,200.00	23,400.00
2 Contracts						
Restoration Crew	30.000	880.000	DAY	14,925.00	11,475.00	26,400.00
Other-Portable Toilet	2.000	175.000	MOS	350.00	0.00	350.00
Other-Trailer rental	20.000	30.000	DAY	600.00	0.00	600.00
Total for Contracts				15,875.00	11,475.00	27,350.00
3 Materials / Supplies						
4 Equipment Use Expenses						

54,350.00

54,350.00

54,350.00

## Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010 Agency: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. Application: Restoration (FINAL)

Qty Rate UOM **Grant Request** Match Line Item Total **Equipment Purchases** Others 25.000 HRS Other-Training 24.000 600.00 0.00 600.00 Notes: This line item will pay for the training of the American Conservation Experience (ACE) crew prior to the start of the restoration work hitch. Indirect Costs Indirect Costs-Unexpected expenditures 3000.000 SET 3,000.00 0.00 3,000.00 1.000 Notes: This line item will help fund unexpxdited expenditures that arise during the course of the project.

30,675.00

30,675.00

30,675.00

23,675.00

23,675.00

23,675.00

**Total Program Expenses** 

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** 

TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES

# Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010 Agency: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. Application: Restoration (FINAL)

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRE	ECT EXPENSES				
Prog	ıram Expenses				
1	Staff	11,200.00	12,200.00	23,400.00	
2	Contracts	15,875.00	11,475.00	27,350.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	600.00	0.00	600.00	
7	Indirect Costs	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	
Tota	I Program Expenses	30,675.00	23,675.00	54,350.00	
тот	AL DIRECT EXPENSES	30,675.00	23,675.00	54,350.00	
тот	AL EXPENDITURES	30,675.00	23,675.00	54,350.00	

## **Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)**

		FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Version #	APP # 700467				
ı	ITEM 1 and I	TEM 2						
	ITEM 1							
a.		as a CEQA Notice of Determina ect Yes or No)	tion (NOD) be	een filed for the Project?	С	Yes	•	No
	ITEM 2							
b.	document p	oposed Project include a reque reparation prior to implementing ad Project pursuant to Section 4	g the remainin	ng Project Deliverables (i.e., is it	C	Yes	•	No
ı	ITEM 3 - Proj	ect under CEQA Guidelines S	Section 15378	3				
c.		e the proposed activities a "Proect Yes or No)	ject" under CE	EQA Guidelines Section 15378?	•	Yes	C	No
d.	and ensure	tion is requesting funds solely f public safety. These activities v t and are thus not a "Project" ur	vould not caus	• • • •	С	Yes	C	No
e.	Other, Expla	ain why proposed activities wou	ld not cause a	any physical impacts on the envir	onn	nent and	are	thus not

#### ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 - 10

This project would have no effect on wetlands or navigable water because there are no wetlands or navigable waters in the project area.

The project would not have a negative impact sensitive habitats or species. The project would have a positive impact on sensitive desert habitats and will function to protect several threatened species and species of special concern, most specifically the state and federally protected desert tortoise and the threatened Mohave ground squirrel. Improving the habitat in Camp C will allow animals that were once extirpated from the area to return by their own accord. To date burrowing animals have returned to a portion of the project area that was formerly damaged to the point that it was no longer occupied by animals. The DTPC knows that work that will be implemented with the funding would be used to spread the benefits provided by improving the habitat across a large piece of the landscape.

### ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

After implementation is comepleted there will be no associated cumulative impacts from this Project in the same general place, such as increased traffic or noise.

#### **ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts**

The implementation of this project has been planned in such a way that there will be no significant effect on the environment due to substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Only very small areas of soil will be disturbed for a short duration during the creation of vertical mulch installations and catchments. Immediately after these two types of habitat improvements have been implemented the disturbed soil will be compacted in the small, localized area to prevent loss of soil due to wind or water caused erosion.

### ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

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Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS) for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010 Applicant: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. Application: Restoration (FINAL)

The project will not cause damage to scenic resources within the viewshed of officially designnated as a state scenic highway because it will not be visible from said highways.

#### **ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Yes No Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No)

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

### ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to C Yes No historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No)

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural

No historical or cultural resources occur within the area of the project, therefore there is no potential for substantial adverse impacts to said historical of cultural resources.

### **ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

The installation of the habitat improvements proposed by the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee [DTNA] will not have the potential to cause indirect significant impacts, either to the surrounding environment or to user groups.

Implementation of restoration practices within Camp C will not result in user groups going elsewhere due to the fact that offhighway vehicle [OHV] recreation is prohibited within the boundaries of the fenced area. Rather than causing OHV user groups to go elsewhere, the habitat improvements will protect and increase the inherent values of the area.

The area around the DTNA already supports a large amount of OHV recreation for 12 months of the year for a variety of OHV types. In addition to OHV opportunity that has been in place for years, a recent route re-opening has increased OHV traffic substantially in the area. In 2002 the Bureau of Land Management closed OHV routes in the Western Rand's. A recent grant written on behalf of the Friends of Jawbone allowed for R 5 and R 50 to be reopened by putting a fence on both sides of the trail. This route has been closed for six years and its re-opening adds 15 miles of trails to the public for access to Munsy Road or travel to Randsburg. Although the route re-opening does not have direct impacts at the DTNA, there are many indirect impacts to the area. The increased public access has resulted in increasing OHV traffic in and around California City. There is also a new California City OHV trail from Borax Bill park and route linkage connecting Jawbone, California City, Camp C and Randsburg via CC10 and CC5 connectors to BLM R5 and R10. Rather than causing significant impacts off-site, the exclusion fencing project proposed by the DTPC works to reduce off-site impacts by protecting desert tortoises from unintentional vehicle collisions. Reducing off-site impacts to wildlife near the DTNA, especially to the threatened desert tortoise and the Mohave ground squirrel, which is a threatened species, will reduce pressure to close existing OHV routes in the area.

This restoration project does not have potential to significantly increase use in the vicinity of the project site.

#### **CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments: Restoration EIR

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Stream or other watercourse (3 points)

Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)

number of special-status species [1]

number of sensitive habitats [1]

4 Project Coot Felimete O.4 (Auto nonviletos from	Coat Fatimata)
Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from	Cost Estimate)
<ol> <li>As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the per Applicant is: 3</li> </ol>	centage of the Project costs covered by the
(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Esone from list)	timate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select
76% or more (10 points)	
51% - 75% (5 points)	
© 26% - 50% (3 points)	
© 25% (Match minimum) (No points)	
2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.	
2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the	Project will result in adverse impacts to: 7
(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable val	ues)
□ Domestic water supply (4 points)	
Archeological and historical resources identified Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)	ed in the California Register of Historical Resources or the

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Failure to restore the habitat at Camp C will aid in the establishment of invasive plant species in the desert wash present in the area. Camp C lies within a zone of quality habitat for both the desert tortoise and the Mohave ground squirrel, both of which are threatened species. Failure to adequately restore this habitat will result in the area being unusable for these and other species whose numbers are currently dwindling. Burrowing owls, a species of special concern, would also be adversely impacted by failure to fund the project.

Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter

▼ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E

▼ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter

## 3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

species [2]

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)

Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)

OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)

Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)

Management decision (1 point)

Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)

Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

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The Bureau of Land Managements Ridgecrest Resource Management Plan and the Habitat Management Plan for the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area

4.	Measures	to Ensure	Success -	Q 4.

	No. 1 1 5 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.
4.	Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 10
	(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)
	✓ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
	✓ Use of native plants and materials
	✓ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
	Educational signage
	☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area
	Explain each item checked above:
	The site is monitored at least twice per month, but usually more frequently. Camp C was completely fenced in 2007 to prevent future trespass and damage from off-roading activities. All restoration and habitat improvements will be conducted using native plant materials (i.e. collected seed, vertical mulch, and horizontal mulch). Collection of seed and mulching materials follows the Best Management Practices established by the Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest Field Office. Educational signage has already been placed in the area to notify the public that the site is closed to recreation and serves as a site for ongoing restoration.
	Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.
5.	Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 0
	(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)
	No (No points) Yes (5 points)
	Identify plan
	Primary Funding Source - Q 6.
6.	Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 3
	(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)
	Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
	Other Grant funding (2 points)
	COHV Trust Funds (No points)
	If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):
	Public Input - Q 7.
7.	The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2
	(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)
	✓ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)

# 7.

5.

6.

▼ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)

✓ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

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Explain each statement that was checked

The project has been ongoing and discussed with the general public, during conference calls with interested parties, and at meetings with stakeholders as early as 2005 and this open communication continues to date.

A notice of public meeting was e-mailed on March 2, 2010 and a public meeting was held to discuss the project on March 20, 2010 at 3:00 PM at 4067 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501.

8.	Utilization	of	Partnership	ps	- (	Q	8.
----	-------------	----	-------------	----	-----	---	----

	•	
8.	The Project will utilize partnerships organizations that will participate in	to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner the Project are 4
	(Check the one most appropriate)	Please select one from list)
	4 or more (4 points)	C 2 to 3 (2 points)
	C 1 (1 point)	None (No points)
	List partner organization(s):	
	California Department of Fish and	Defenders of Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest Field Office, Game, Lancaster High School, American Conservation Experience, and the atural Resource Conservation Service
9.	Scientific and Cultural Studies - G	9.
9.	Scientific and cultural studies will	
	(Check all that apply) (Please sele	ct applicable values)
	☐ Determine appropriate Resto	ation techniques (2 points)
	Examine potential effects of C	HV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
	Examine methods to ensure s	uccess of Restoration efforts (1 point)
	Lead to direct management a	ction (1 point)
	Explain each item checked above	
10.	Underlying Problem - Q 10.	
10	<ol> <li>The underlying problem that result addressed and resolved 3</li> </ol>	ed in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively
	(Check the one most appropriate)	Please select one from list)
	No (No points)	Yes (3 points)
	Explain 'Yes' answer	
		ed in the need for the Restoration Project was over use by OHVs. The problem rencing the entire project area in 2007.
11.	Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.	
11	Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wild be restored 3	erness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will
	(Check the one most appropriate)	Please select one from list)
	Greater than 10 acres (5 poin	s)
	C Less than 1 acre (1 points)	
	No sensitive habitat within Pr	ject Area (No points)

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